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To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Subject Comments

Thomas Oi  
Lihue, Kauai

After reviewing your management plan back ground it seem that with the existing humpback whale sanctuary is sufficient and expansion is not need. Your data show an increase in the whale population in the waters off of the Island of Kauai with the existing sanctuary.

As I said at the meeting held in September education is the best way to protect all the so called endangered species. Here in Hawaii the people are aware and care for there resources.

DLNR has gone into the communities and educated the public of conservation efforts and the public has become steward of the Island.

NOAA can do the same by going into the communities and schools and educated the adult and children on the important's of protecting the whales, monk seal, green sea turtles etc. By doing this I know expansion of the whale sanctuary will not be necessary.

Through my experience as the District Land Agent for DLNR on Kauai. I always feel that in any situation education is the first step I take. I say and do this because in many cases the public has been using and enjoy there activity in these area all there lives. To implement restrictions first is the wrong way do things.

As far as add different species to the sanctuary there will be a great impact on the public that go to the ocean as source for food there families. The species listed will impact the sanctuary horizontally (the whale sanctuary affect the area vertically) and will broaden the area all the way to above the high water mark and limit the use of the area by the public.

So I feel educate first!

Tommy Oi Kauai